

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BRITISH PRESS REPORT ON AARON VISIT TO LONDON

UNDER CAPTION "TOP US ENVOY TO MEET DR. OWEN," APRIL 19
GUARDIAN CARRIES FOLLOWING STORY ON PAGE FIVE BY
PATRICK KEATLEY, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT:

"PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SENT A SENIOR ENVOY TO
LONDON IN THE PERSON OF MR. DAVID AARON, DEPUTY TO HIS
NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, MR. BRZEZINSKI, TO BEGIN
IMMEDIATE CONSULTATIONS WITH DR. DAVID OWEN AT THE
FOREIGN OFFICE TODAY ON THE JOINT STRATEGY FOR DEALING
WITH THE RHODESIA PROBLEM.

THUS THE FOREIGN SECRETARY IS SETTING A CRACKING
PACE, GIVING HIMSELF NO RESPITE FROM THE TIME HE STEPPED
FROM HIS RAF JET AT HEATHROW AT DAWN YESTERDAY AFTER A
SKIMPED NIGHT'S SLEEP ON THE HOMEWARD FLIGHT FROM AFRICA.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE CALLS FOR A MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT
TO THE COMMONS, SUMMING UP THE RESULTS OF HIS EIGHT-DAY,
EIGHT-NATION TOUR OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, AS WELL AS THE
START OF THE INTENSIVE PLANNING TALKS WITH MR. AARON.

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YESTERDAY'S WORK SCHEDULE BEGAN WITH DR. OWEN ARRIV-
ING AT HIS DESK AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE BEFORE 8.0 A.M.,
HAVING DRIVEN DIRECT FROM THE AIRPORT. HE HAD TO ATTEND
CABINET, REPORT ON HIS AFRICAN TOUR, BRIEF THE PRIME
/MINISTER, AND BE IN HIS PLACE AT THE EEC COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS MEETING IN THE AFTERNOON TO CHAIR THE SESSION
AND REPORT TO THE //INE ON THE AFRICA TOUR AND THE NEW

ANGLO-AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE WHICH IS TAKING
SHAPE.

NOTHING COULD MORE EMPHATICALLY UNDERLINE THE THRUST
OF THIS NEW DIPLOMACY THAN THE ARRIVAL IN LONDON TODAY
OF MR. AARON. HE IS REGARDED AS ONE OF PRESIDENT
CARTER'S TROUBLESHOOTERS, AND IS DIRECTLY GEARED INTO
THE WHITE HOUSE OPERATION AS NO. 2 TO MR. BRZEZINSKI.

THE MORE OBVIOUS MOVE WOULD HAVE BEEN FOR MR. CARTER
TO ASK MR. VANCE, AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, TO SEND ONE
OF HIS AFRICA EXPERTS TO LONDON.

BUT THE PRESIDENT, BY HIS CHOICE OF ENVOY, INDICATES
THE HIGH PRIORITY HE ATTACHES TO THE GO-POLITICS OF THE
SOUTHERN AFRICA SITUATION. MR. AARON, LIKE HIS CHIEF,
WORKS IN THE FIELD WHICH INVOLVES THE ASSESSMENT OF
GLOBAL SOVIET STRATEGY AND THE FORMATION OF US POLICY
RESPONSES."

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